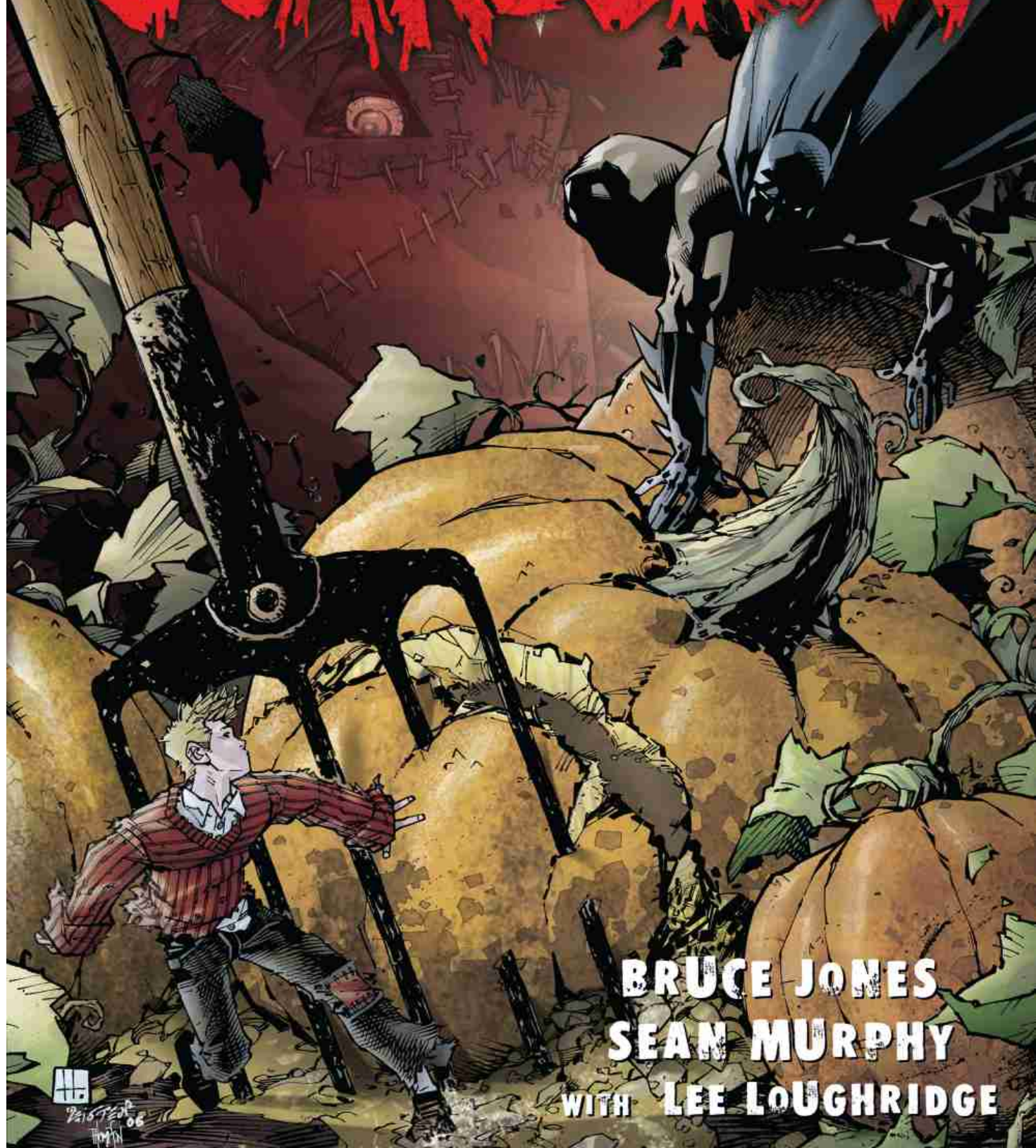


YEAR ONE



BATMAN

SCARECROW



BRUCE JONES

SEAN MURPHY

WITH LEE LOUGHRIDGE



2015 FEB 06
TIMM

YEAR ONE

BATMAN SCARECROW

WRITER Bruce Jones
PENCILLER AND INKER Sean Murphy

LETTERER Nick Napolitano
COLORIST AND SEPARATOR Lee Loughridge

Batman CREATED BY Bob Kane

COVER PENCILLER: Zach Howard COVER INKER: Jay Leisten
COVER COLOR: Thompson Knox LOGO DESIGN: Terry Moore









--OR IS IT
SOMETHING YOU
DRANK?







...FORTUNATELY, GREAT GRANDMOTHER KEENY DIDN'T TAKE HER DAUGHTER'S ADVICE.



NOT OUT OF PITY, YOU UNDERSTAND--SHE DETESTED THE BABY AS MUCH AS GRANDMOTHER MARION. NOR FROM ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO THE KEENY NAME...



...BOTH DAUGHTER AND GRANDDAUGHTER HAD SQUANDERED THAT YEARS AGO.

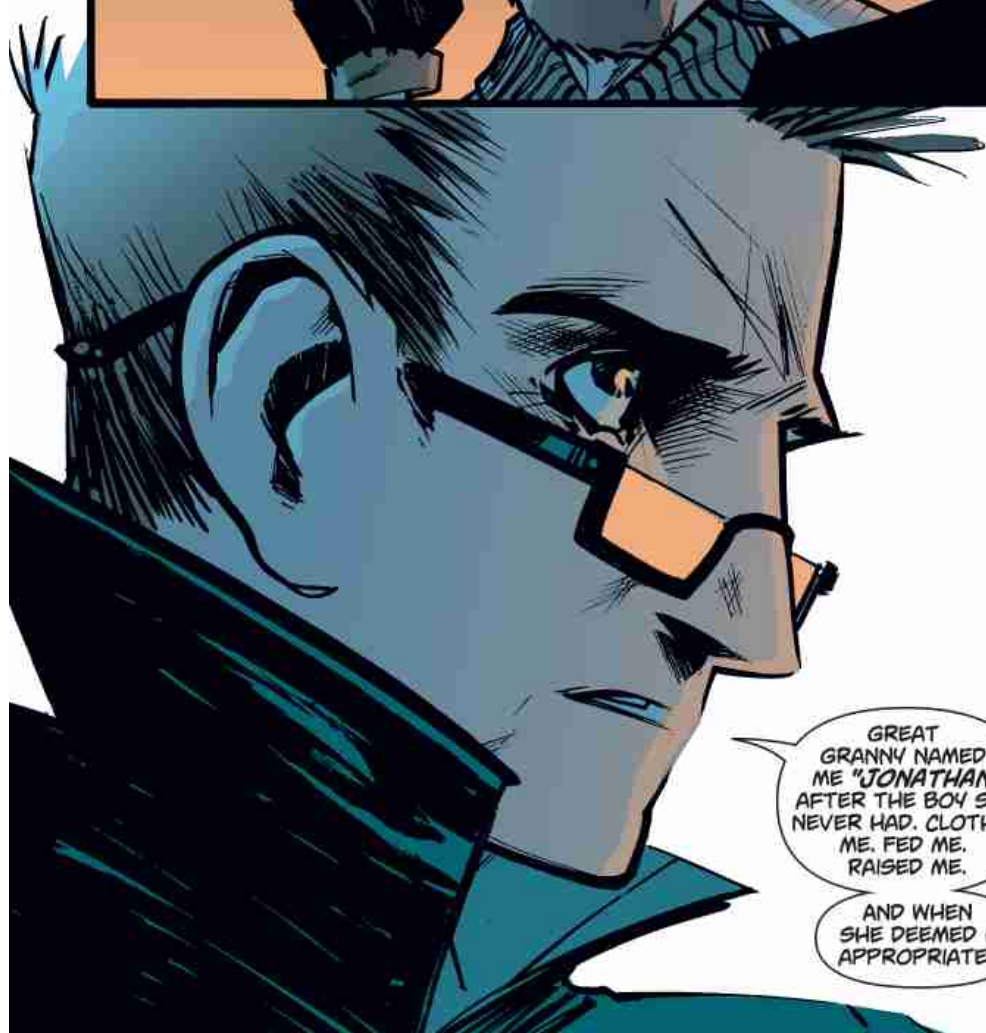
LEAVING THE OLD WOMAN TO DECAY IN AN ANTEBELLUM MAUSOLEUM SHE HAD NEITHER THE MONEY NOR STRENGTH TO MAINTAIN.

SHE DID MAINTAIN THE CHILD, HOWEVER. "MAINTAIN," I SAID--



--NOT "LOVE"--

--PERHAPS TO SPITE HER SELFISH DAUGHTER... PERHAPS TO ASSUAGE HER OWN DARK NEEDS.



GREAT GRANNY NAMED ME "JONATHAN" AFTER THE BOY SHE NEVER HAD. CLOTHED ME. FED ME. RAISED ME.

AND WHEN SHE DEEMED IT APPROPRIATE...



...PUNISHED ME.



...OF COURSE, IT WASN'T ALL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND BED WITHOUT DINNER.



THERE WAS THE ONGOING HELL OF WORKING THE OLD CORNFIELD.

WE HAD LITTLE MONEY, AND SHE **WAS** OLD-- BUT MOSTLY IT WAS GRANNY'S SADISTIC DELIGHT...



...WATCHING MY FRAIL YOUNG BODY LABORING UNDER MERCILESS GEORGIA SUN AND BITING FLIES. SHE WAS QUITE INSANE, YOU SEE.

QUIET TODAY, BOY?

YEARNING FOR HALLOWEEN MISCHIEF NEXT WEEK? THE DEVIL'S HOLIDAY?

DRESSING LIKE HIS MINIONS, PARADING DARK STREETS, SCARING OLD FOLKS-- DEFACING HOME AND PROPERTY WITH YOUR HOODLUM FRIENDS?

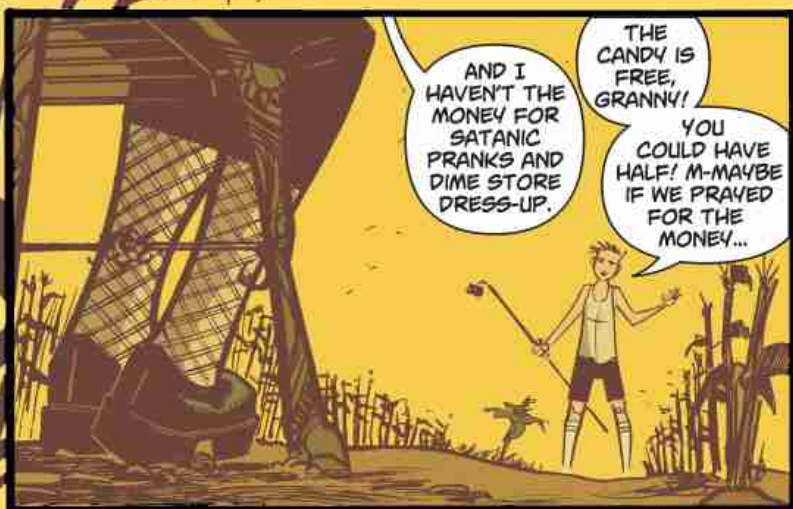
I HAVEN'T ANY FRIENDS, GRANNY.



AND I HAVEN'T THE MONEY FOR SATANIC PRANKS AND DIME STORE DRESS-UP.

THE CANDY IS FREE, GRANNY!

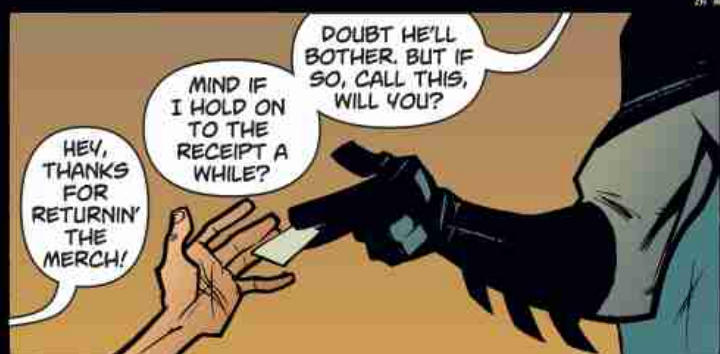
YOU COULD HAVE HALF! M-MAYBE IF WE PRAYED FOR THE MONEY...



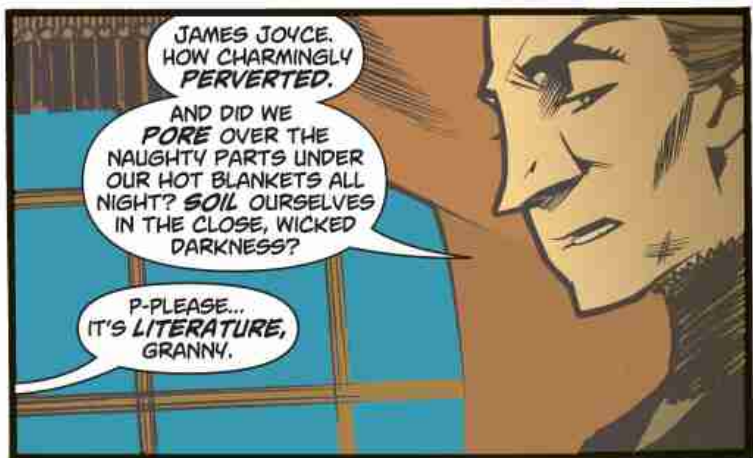
WE DON'T PRAY FOR MONEY IN THIS HOUSE! WE WAIT FOR A SIGN FROM THE LORD.

--YOU LISTENING TO ME, BOY?











I WARNED YOU TO STAY OUT OF THE FORBIDDEN ROOM, DIDN'T I, BOY?

PLEASE, GRANNY. I-I FOUND THE BOOK.

LIES. THE DEMON'S TONGUE. NEVER MIND. WE'LL CLEANSE HIS WICKEDNESS AWAY...

GRANDMOTHER WANTED A REAL CHAPEL, OF COURSE. BUT GRANDDAD WOULD HAVE HIS BIRDS. STILL...SHE HELD SERVICE HERE EVERY NIGHT.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT IN ITS **GLORY**, CHILD. THE PRIDE OF GEORGIA GENTILITY. A CRISTAL PALACE REACHING TO THE HEAVENS!

EXOTIC FAUNA IMPORTED FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD! SNOW WHITE DOVES! ALABASTER EGRETS! REGAL HERONS!

LIKE GOD'S WINGED **ANGELS**. WHITE...PURE...

...CLEANSED...

P-PLEASE, GRANNY! I-I'LL BE GOOD!

...THAT WAS BEFORE THE MARKET CRASH OF COURSE.

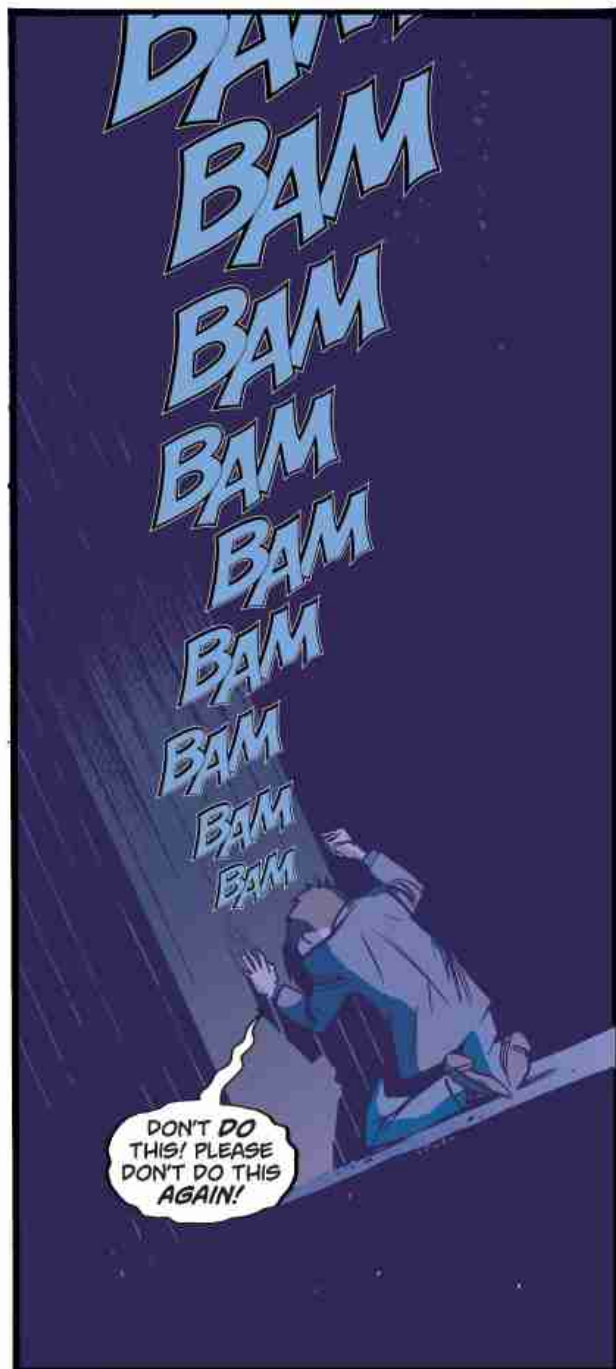
AND GRANDFATHER KEENY BLEW HIS BRAINS OUT IN THE FRUIT CELLAR. MOTHER HANGED HERSELF SOON AFTER.

LEAVING US TO FEND FOR OURSELVES. ME, MARION... HER WAYWARD DAUGHTER, KAREN...

...AND NOW YOU, JONATHAN.

THE CHAPEL WENT **DARK** AFTER MOTHER DIED...COLD AND EMPTY LIKE THE GRAVE. LEAVING US ALONE...WITH NO ONE TO WATCH OVER US...PROTECT US...

...FROM THE **DARKER** THINGS OUTSIDE.







NOTHING FROM QUANTICO?

NOTHING MATCHING OUR RENTAL TAG PRINTS.

...I SEE. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, SPECIAL AGENT MYERS.



MAYBE OUR BOY'S A FIRST-TIME OFFENDER. RECKLESS AND CALLOW.

--OR CONFIDENT AND SMART.



THE PIECE OF STRAW WAS NO ACCIDENT, THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING?

A SIGNATURE KILLER?

BUT KENDRICK ALL BUT ADMITTED TO HIRING HIM...

DOESN'T MEAN SCARECROW DOESN'T FIT THE PROFILE. SO HE'S A SERIAL KILLER WHO ALSO MAKES A PROFIT--HE'S STILL A SERIAL KILLER.



SOMETHING ELSE IS TROUBLING YOU, BRUCE. TALK TO ME.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE KILLING. GUY DRESSES UP IN SOMETHING HORRIFIC, GOES OUT INTO THE NIGHT AND TERRIFIES HIS ENEMIES.

HE'S ACTING OUT...FROM DEEP, VISCERAL TRAUMA...PROBABLY CHILDHOOD...

...SOUND LIKE ANYONE YOU KNOW?







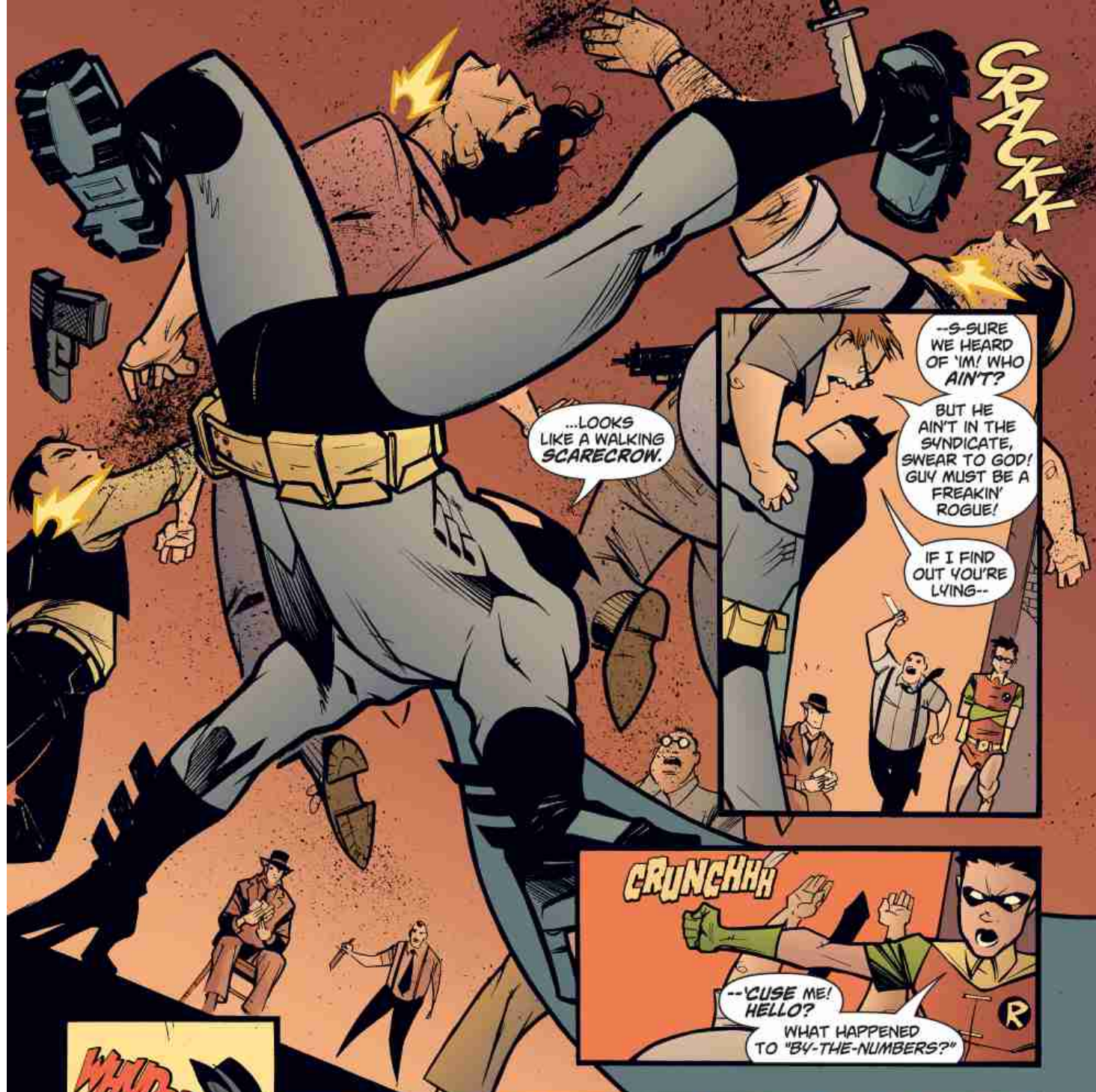
...SKINNY GUY...

...BOUT SIX FOOT THREE...

...CAN'T MISS HIM.

HOLY JUMPIN'--

KA-RUNICHHHHHH



...LOOKS LIKE A WALKING SCARECROW.

--S-SURE WE HEARD OF 'IM! WHO AINT'?

BUT HE AIN'T IN THE SYNDICATE, SWEAR TO GOD! GUY MUST BE A FREAKIN' ROGUE!

IF I FIND OUT YOU'RE LYING--

CRUNCHHH

--CUSE ME! HELLO?

WHAT HAPPENED TO "BY-THE-NUMBERS?"



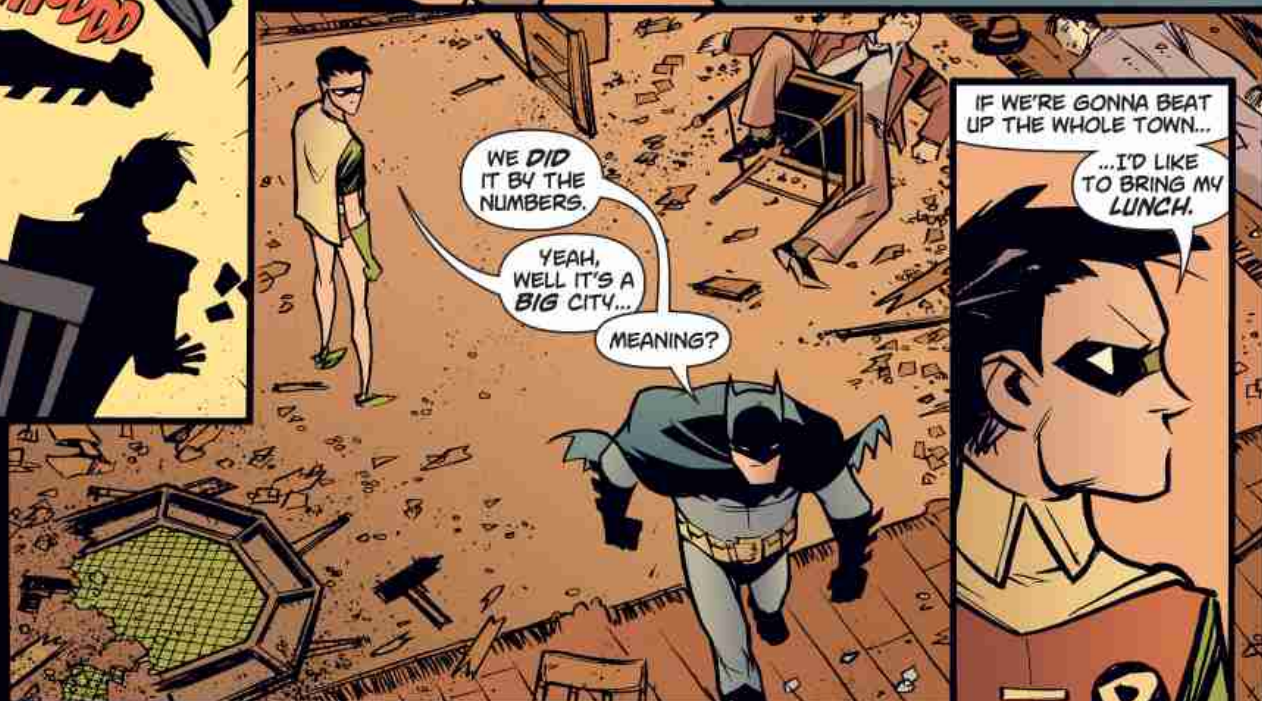
WE DID IT BY THE NUMBERS.

YEAH, WELL IT'S A BIG CITY...

MEANING?

IF WE'RE GONNA BEAT UP THE WHOLE TOWN...

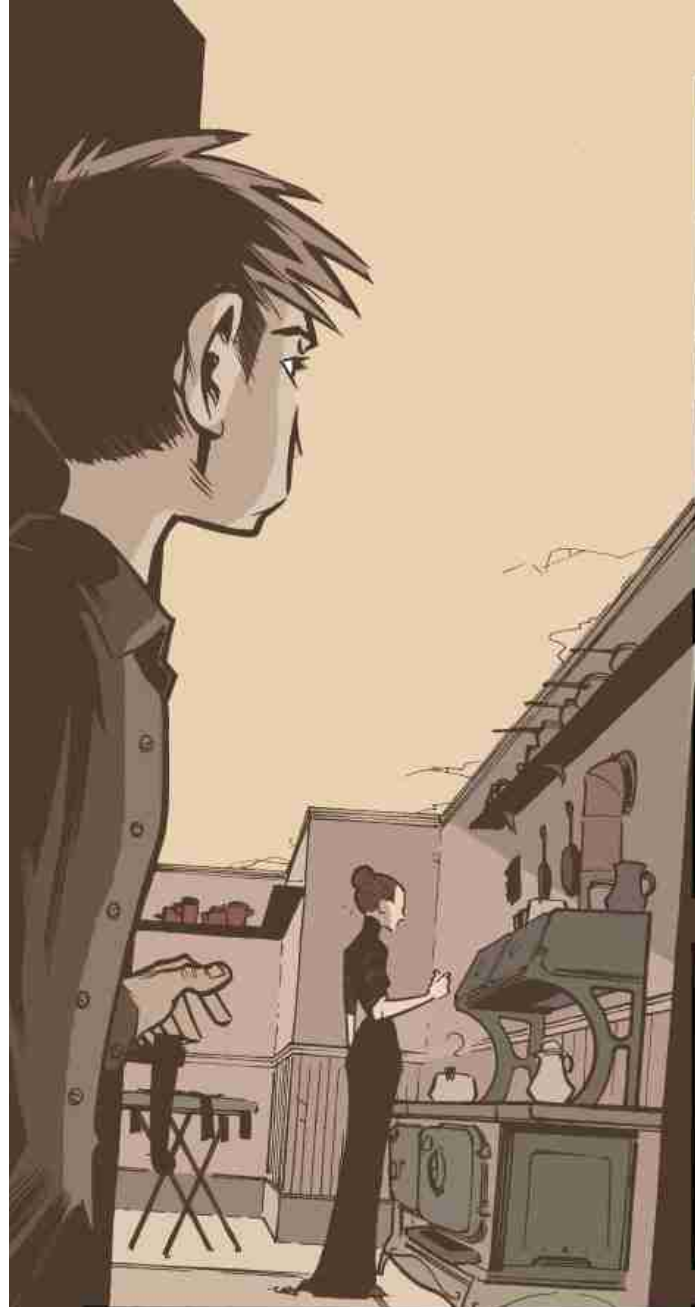
...I'D LIKE TO BRING MY LUNCH.

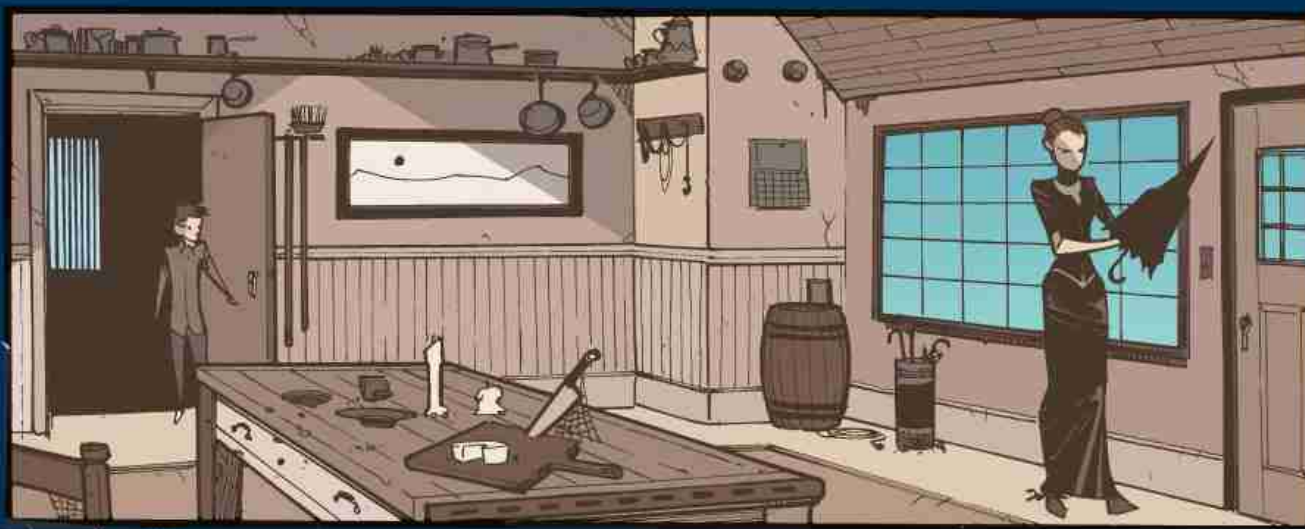












SP LK
SP LK SP LK
SP LK SP LK
SP LK



WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP





THE
SMELL! OF
COURSE!



LENGTHY RESEARCH IN THE
MANSION LIBRARY ON THE
HUNGER PHEROMONES OF
WILD FOWL...

...COMBINED WITH
HOME-GROWN HERBS
AND OTHER
CHEMICALS...



...SIMMER FOR
TWENTY MINUTES
OVER A LOW
FLAME...

GARNISH
WITH FRESH
VERMIN.



SPRINKLE THE
RAT'S JUICES ON
BOTH THE CHILD'S
SUNDAY SUIT AND
THE SCARECROW'S
TATTERED
THREADS...



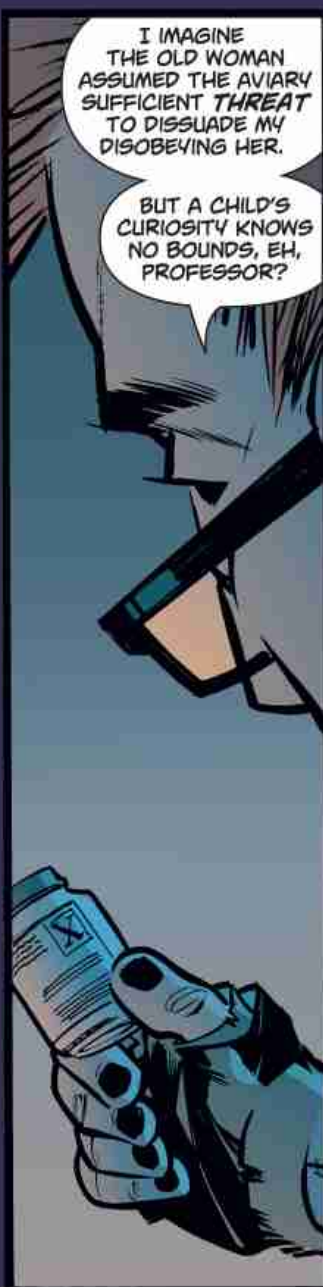
...AND THAT,
PROFESSOR IS
HOW YOU TRAIN
A PACK OF WILD
CROWS...





...I MADE ONE MORE IMPORTANT DISCOVERY THAT SAME WEEK.

THERE WAS A "FORBIDDEN ROOM" IN GRANNY'S MANSION. ONE I'D BEEN WARNED TO STEER CLEAR OF.



I IMAGINE THE OLD WOMAN ASSUMED THE AVIARY SUFFICIENT **THREAT** TO DISSUADE MY DISOBEYING HER.

BUT A CHILD'S CURIOSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS, EH, PROFESSOR?



ONE DAY DURING HER AFTERNOON NAP, I VENTURED DOWN THE SECOND STORY HALL AND **OPENED** THE FORBIDDEN DOOR.

THERE I DISCOVERED THE THIRD AND FINAL GREAT POWER...









--BEEN
PECKING AT
THE BACK OF
MY MIND ALL
NIGHT.

WHAT'S
THE FIRST
THING I
TAUGHT YOU,
ROBIN?



...UH...

...HAVEN'T A
CLUE.

WRONG.



"EVERYTHING'S
A CLUE--"

"--NO
MATTER HOW
INSIGNIFICANT."

WE ALREADY
CASED THIS
WAREHOUSE,
REMEMBER?
CHASED OUR
FRIEND THROUGH
IT EARLIER THIS
EVENING?



--AND THAT
COULD BE
FROM THE
STORE DUMMY
HE DECEIVED
US WITH.

THE DUMMY'S
STRAW WAS
SHREDDED POLY-
URETHANE...

...THIS IS
ORGANIC.



THE PIECE
WITH WHICH--
HOPEFULLY--

--WE'LL
BREAK THE
CAMEL'S
BACK.



FEAR,
PROFESSOR.

THE
GREATEST
POWER OF
ALL.



DRINK. IT HASN'T BEEN
TAMPERED WITH, YOU
HAVE MY WORD.

THE ANTIDOTE
FROM THE SYRINGE
SHOULD HAVE YOU UP
AND AROUND AGAIN
IN A FEW MINUTES.



I WOULDN'T
SUGGEST STRUGGLING
OR CALLING OUT,
THOUGH.

BUTLER RENLON
IS SLEEPING OFF HIS
OWN GLASS OF MY
"SPECIAL" PORT. AND
THE MAID IS OFF
TONIGHT.

I'M GOOD
WITH THE LITTLE
DETAILS, AS YOU
MAY RECALL
FROM CLASS.

COMFORTABLE?
GET YOU A
CIGAR?



WHY,
CRANE?

TO SCARE
YOU, OF COURSE.
IT'S WHAT I DO.



AS MY FORMER
PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT,
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT
LITTLE WITHIN THE SCOPE
OF HUMAN NATURE
FRIGHTENS ME.

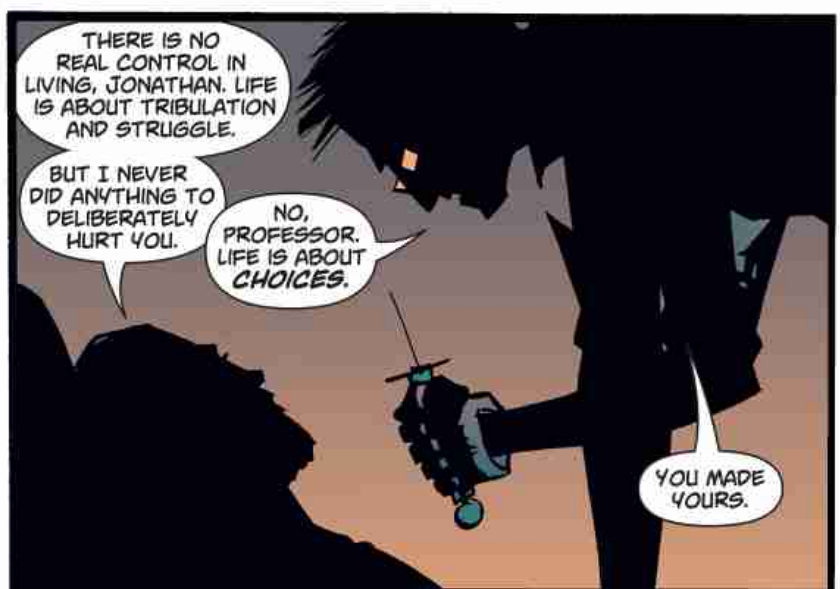
BUT WE
HAVEN'T GOTTEN
TO THE MAIN
COURSE,
PROFESSOR...

SPLIK
SPLIK
SPLIK



...TRUST
ME, YOU
SHALL BE
THOROUGHLY
TERRIFIED.

AND WHO
SAID ANYTHING
ABOUT "HUMAN
NATURE"?





PAROLE OFFICER KNOW YOU'RE PACKING, LAMAR?



WHAT THE H--?

HEY!



VERY COOL, LAMAR. PULL THE TRIGGER--GO AHEAD...

...SEE IF WE CAN GET YOU **ANOTHER** TEN-TO TWENTY AT LEAVENWORTH.

DAMN, DOG! THIS HOW YOU ALLUS ENTER A MAN'S HOUSE?



THIS HOW YOU PAY ME BACK FOR SPRINGING YOU--GETTING THAT HIGH I.Q. INTO A TOP TEN COLLEGE?

GOTS TO COVER MY BLACK BUTT SOMEHOW IN THIS HOOD.

ROCHELLE, HUSTLE US SOME COFFEE, BABY.



AIN'T PRADIN' MY NEKED BUTT FRONTA NO FIVE-O!

WHOA, GIRL, THIS THE BAT! THE LEGEND! AN HIS HOMIE, THE PIGEON!

ROBIN, ACTUALLY.

HERE YOU ARE...

YOU HAULIN' ME IN, HOMES?

TELL YOU WHAT, LAMAR...

...HELP US OUT WITH A LITTLE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM AND WE'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT THE HEATER ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND...

...AND THE DOOBIE ON YOUR HEATER.

YOU **HAVE** BEEN KEEPING UP WITH YOUR STUDIES, RIGHT?



...C-726.
OLD STRAIN A'
CORN, HOMES.
LOOONG
DEFUNCT.

HOW CAN
YOU TELL
THAT?

'CAUSE SOME DUDE
INNA CAPE THOUGHT
I OUGHTA BE STUDYIN'
WEED 'STEADA PUSHIN' IT.
AN' AGRICULTURAL
STUDIES WAS THE EASIEST
DEGREE. THAT RIGHT,
BATS?

SEE DOG, AMERICA FEED
THE WHOLE WORLD. ORDER
TO DO THAT, YOU GOT
TO GROW LOTTA
GRAIN.

ORDER DO **THAT**,
YOU GOT TO CONSTANTLY
CREATE A NEW STRAIN A
SEED, GIVE FARMER BROWN
A BIGGER AND BIGGER
YIELD.

PROBLEM IS, NEW STRAIN'S
INHERENTLY WEAK, VULNERABLE
TO CROP DISEASE N'ALL.

SO EVERY YEAR UNCLE
SAM NEEDS TO DEVELOP A
BRAND NEW STRAIN, FEED ALL
THE TERRORISTS, KNOW
I'M SAVIN'?

AND IF SOME
YEAR THEY DON'T
SUCCEED?

THEN,
FINCH, MY
MAN--



ROBIN.

--THEN WE WON'T
NEED NO ASTEROID
HIT TO CAUSE GLOBAL
STARVATION. WE
TOAST.

CAN YOU
CROSSCHECK THE
YEAR OUR STRAIN
WAS DISTRIBUTED?



--ON IT,
HOMES.

C-726-449.
MANUFACTURED...
1976. ANCIENT.

REGION?

SOUTHERN
GEORGIA.

GEORGIA!



WETTER CLIMATE.
GOV'MENT ADDED SOME
ANTIFUNGAL
STABILIZERS--

--PHOSPHATE
449.

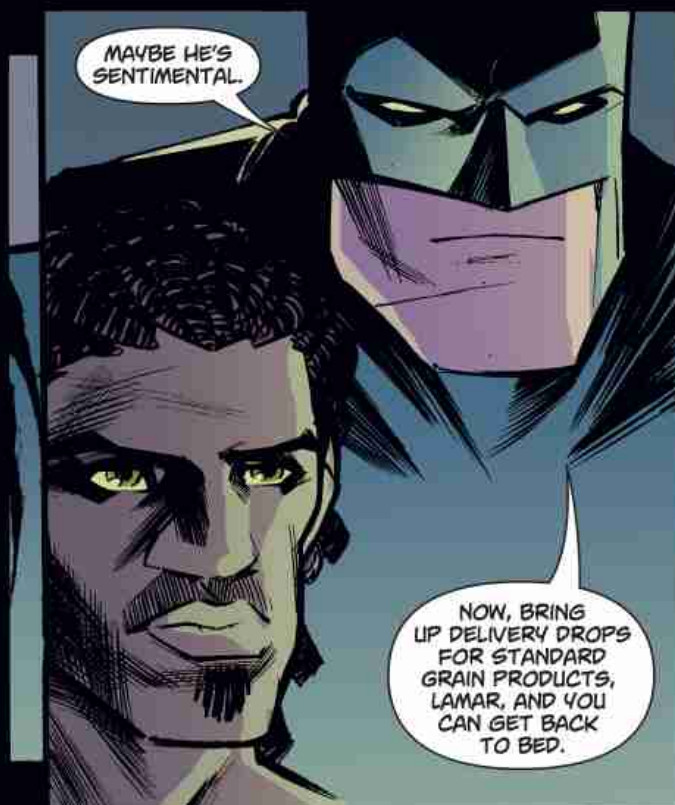


NAIL US THE
MANUFACTURER
AND YOU GET
AN A.



...449...449...STANDARD
GRAIN AND FEED
CO., ATLANTA, GA.

WHY WOULD
HE CARRY A PIECE
OF GEORGIA STRAW
WAY UP HERE TO
GOTHAM CITY?



MAYBE HE'S
SENTIMENTAL.

NOW, BRING
UP DELIVERY DROPS
FOR STANDARD
GRAIN PRODUCTS,
LAMAR, AND YOU
CAN GET BACK
TO BED.



PERFECT.
PRINT
THAT.















"...SEPT. 5, 1976. SLEEPING VERY LITTLE NOW...HEAR STRANGE NOISES AT NIGHT. I KNOW IT'S THE BOY, PROWLING THE MANSION..."



"...HE'S GROWN SO. TALL, STRONG. I'VE COME TO FEAR HIM. FEAR SOME TERRIBLE RETRIBUTION THAT CUNNING MIND IS CONJURING FOR ME. SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE BABY FOR DEAD AS HIS GRANDMOTHER WANTED...SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED TO RAISE JONATHAN ALONE..."



"JONATHAN"...

BATMAN--?

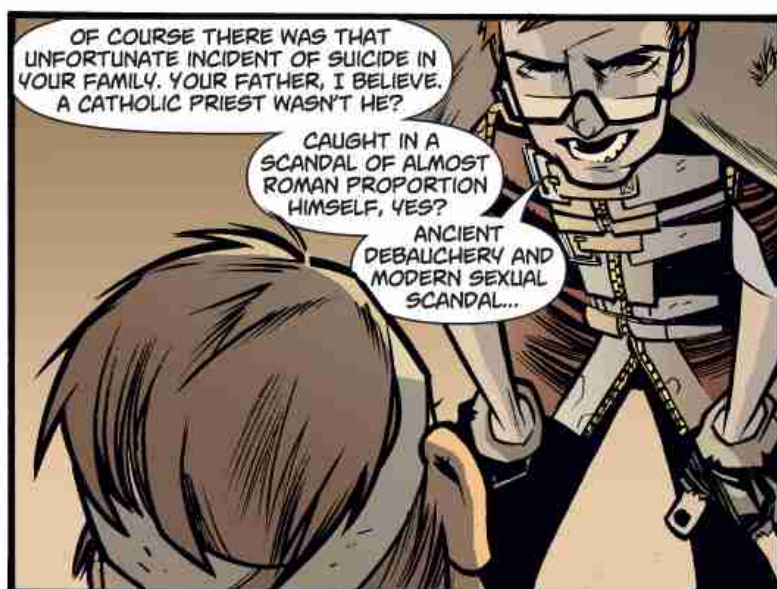
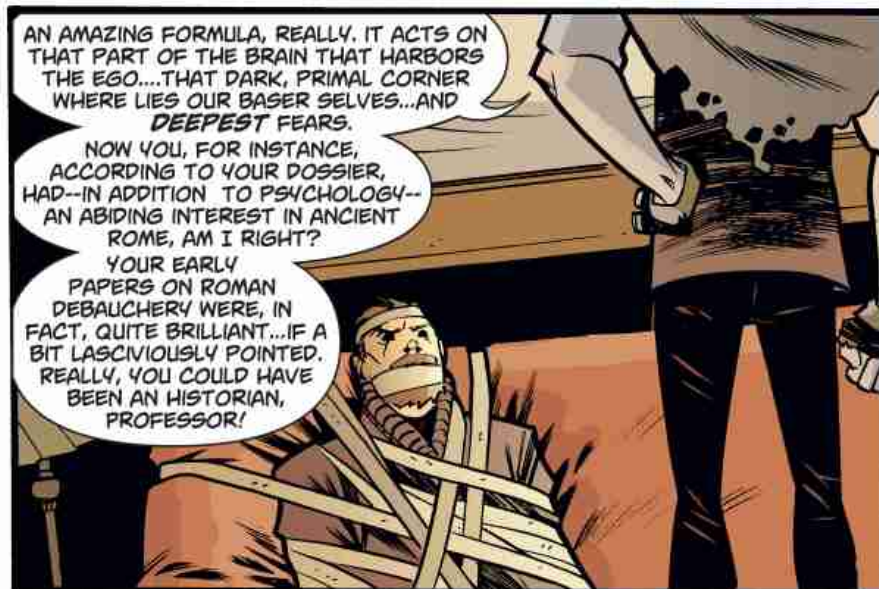
...HAVE A LOOK AT THIS.

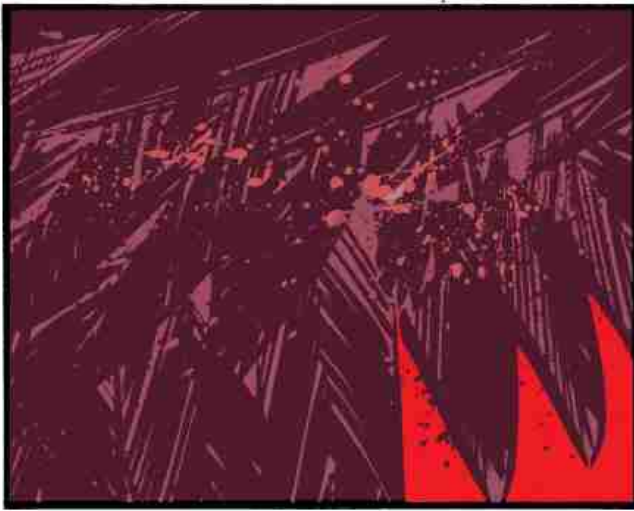


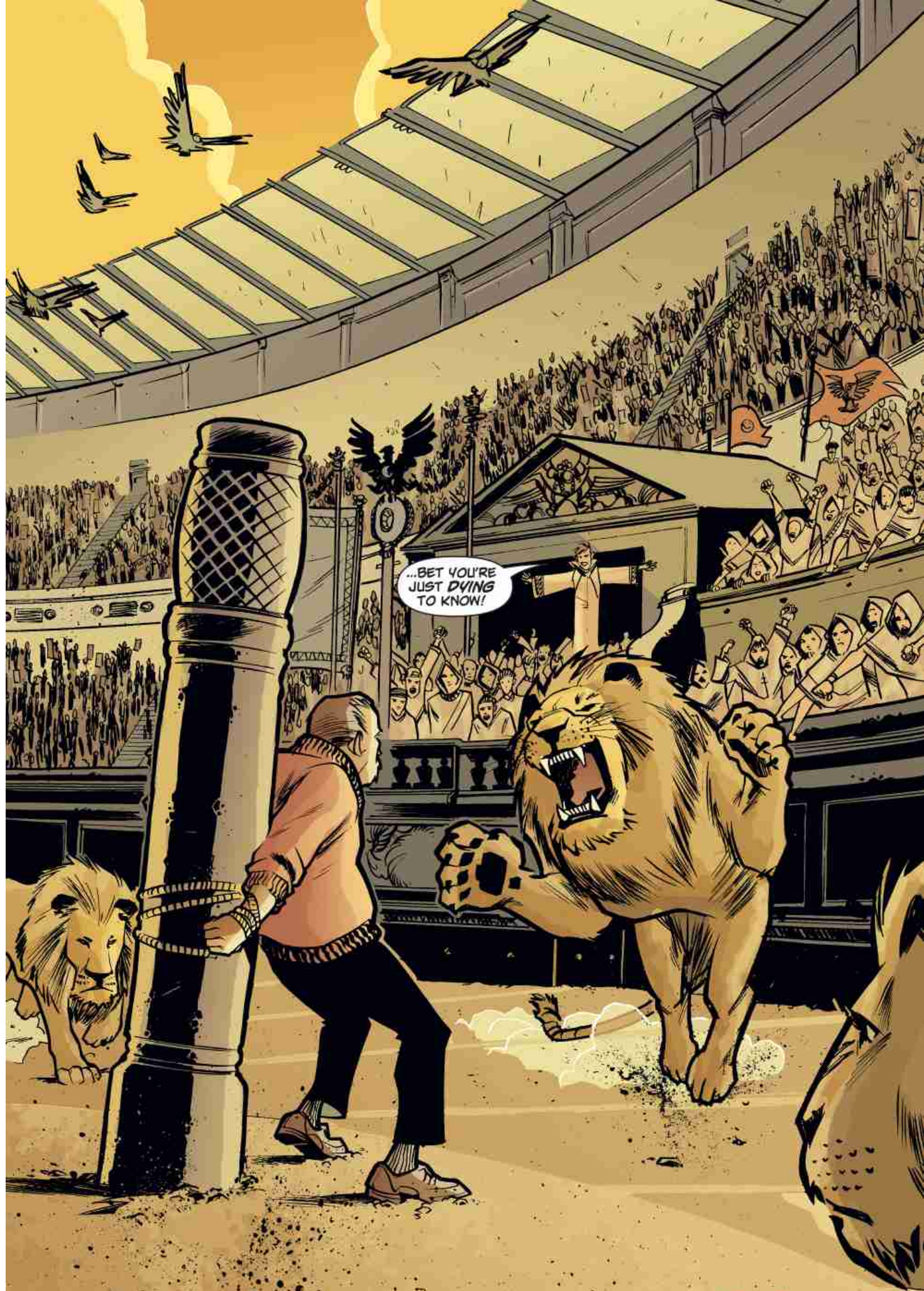
AN ARBORETUM?

LOOK AT THOSE WOODEN PERCHES--

--IT'S AN AVIARY.







**TO BE
CONCLUDED**

TO BATMAN, HE IS THE MASTER OF FEAR...



...manipulating the inner
demons of all he encounters.

But even the Scarecrow has
demons. As he embarks on
a horrific killing spree that
will bring him into conflict
with Batman and Robin,
the Scarecrow's own fears
are revealed for the
very first time.

ONE OF TWO

dccomics.com